must look to the bearing of his works and dispensations on the state and character of man.

In conducting this inquiry, we shall find ourselves in the midst of a topic of most momentous import, but from which modern scientific men have generally drawn back, as if they felt unable or unwilling to grapple with it, because too high for their understanding to rise to it, or too humbling to their pride to stoop down to it. The subject referred to is the relation in which God stands towards man. Our literati and secular philosophers are, in general, willing to acknowledge that a God exists: but they have very confused and ill-assorted ideas as to the relation in which he stands towards the human race. Yet surely this latter subject is not inferior in philosophical interest; or practical importance to the other, or indeed to any other. The character of God cannot well be understood by us till we consider it in its relation to man. How do I stand in reference to that Being, of whose greatness and goodness I profess to entertain such lofty ideas? How does He stand affected towards me? We know not if the settlement of the question of the existence of God be to us of greater moment than the settlement of this other question, What is the relation in which we stand to Him? This is certain, that the settlement of the one question should instantly lead to the settlement of the other; and the inquirer has stopped half-way, and acquires little that is truly valuable, nothing satisfactory to the heart, till he pursue, his researches into this second field which lies contiguous to the other.

This second inquiry must bring under our special notice and consideration the character of man, not, it is true, metaphysically or analytically, or in all its aspects, but in its bearings towards God. The consideration of the nature of man, and more particularly of his moral qualities, will again conduct us upward to

the contemplation of the rectitude or the moral excellence of God. It is by placing the two together, the diameter of God and the character of man, MB it were in juxtaposition, tho one over against the other, that we can best miderstund both. This relation of God and man, the one towards tho of.her, IB the department of divine and human knowledge in which, in our humble opinion, this generation has most need to be instructed.

We live iff an age which boasts of its light and knowledge ; but it may be doubted how far those who arc most disposed to